

# **YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS** **WRITING COMPETITION** **2023-2024**

## OFFICIAL RULES BOOKLET

### **ABOUT THE YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS WRITING COMPETITION**

The purpose of the Young Georgia Authors (YGA) writing competition is to encourage students to develop enthusiasm for and expertise in their writing, to provide a context to celebrate their writing successes, and to recognize student achievement in arts and academics.

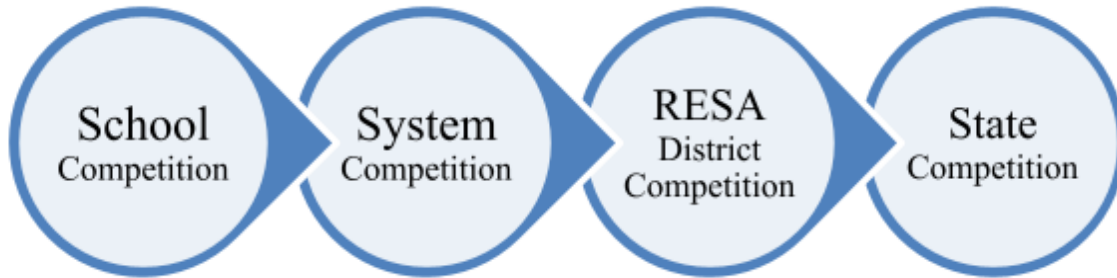
This prestigious competition has been engaging Georgia students since 1991 and is open to any student currently enrolled in Georgia **public** schools, grades K-12. The competition is sponsored by the Georgia Language Arts Supervisors (GLAS) and the Georgia RESA Network with support from the Georgia Department of Education.

### **Questions?**

**Contact: Kelley Webb at [webbk@fultonschools.org](mailto:webbk@fultonschools.org)**

**ENTRY OVERVIEW**

Writings shall be entered into the state-level competition by winning the tiered levels: (a) local school, (b) district, (c) RESA District, and then (d) state. School systems may submit ONE winning entry per grade level (K-12) to the RESA-level competition. RESA-level winners will advance to the state-level competition.



**WRITING TYPES**

Unlike many writing competitions, YGA does not provide a prompt to which students must respond or provide any other boundaries to their genre choice or creativity beyond a 1900-word maximum length. Entries may include:

- Short Stories
- Poetry
- Essays/Literary Criticism/Analysis
- Journalism
- Academic/Research Reports
- Personal Narratives
- Any Other Original Student Writing

**Evaluation Guidelines\***

*Below are the guidelines by which entries will be evaluated by state-level competition judges.*

<b>Expression of Ideas</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing suggests/conveys meanings; reflects strong thinking</li> <li>• Thematic meaning(s) effectively controlled</li> <li>• Piece is unified and builds upon itself, even if the structure is untraditional</li> <li>• Sense of clarity of purpose, completeness, and closure</li> </ul>
<b>Language Use</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing style appropriate to content and genre</li> <li>• Writing reflects mastery of technical aspects of writing (e.g., control over punctuation and syntax)</li> <li>• Writer uses language powerfully, via apt/original word choice, unique phrasing</li> <li>• Strong flow produced via syntactical control and variation</li> <li>• Writer effectively employs detail, evocative language, and/or imagery to enliven writing and to express ideas</li> </ul>
<b>Unique Perspective and Voice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uniqueness of writer is evident through stylistic choices</li> <li>• Writing conveys unique, authentic, original perspective</li> <li>• Style conveys unique, authentic, original voice</li> </ul>

\*Evaluation guidelines adapted from NCTE competition guidelines.

**SELECTION PROCEDURES**

1. The writing contest begins with a school-wide competition. Grade-level winners should be sent to the system coordinator by the date determined by your designated System Coordinator.
2. A system-level contest must be held. ONE winning entry per grade from the system contest shall be submitted from a system-level administrator to the RESA ELA Specialist or designee. Multiple entries by grade will be disqualified.

Individual entries sent by teachers, students, or schools will not be judged.

3. Winning entries from each system must be received by the RESA District ELA Supervisor no later than **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2024**. Entries received after this deadline will not be accepted. RESA YGA Coordinators may also set an earlier submission deadline. Electronic versus paper submission is the preference of your RESA. If your RESA chooses electronic submission, those submission guidelines will be provided to you by the RESA YGA Coordinator.
4. Judging will be conducted by an appointed committee of English Language Arts professionals convened by the RESA YGA Coordinator for the purpose of selecting a RESA Winner at each grade level. The RESA YGA Coordinator should log each district's winner for grade levels K-12, prepare a master list of entries and safeguard the names and identifying school of origin in order to protect the integrity of the judging process. Judges shall not be aware of the name of the student or school of origin. Once the RESA-level winners have been determined, the RESA YGA Coordinator will send the entry form, original entry, and one copy of each grade-level winner with a composite list of the names of the winners. **The deadline to receive the RESA winners to GLAS is Thursday, March 21, 2024.** Entries received after that date will not be judged.
5. State-level winners will be announced on the GLAS website (<http://galangartssup.weebly.com/young-georgia-authors.html>) and the GaDOE website.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

- Q. *The instructions reference the "original" work, but then they talk about making sure that there is certain header information on each page of the original and the copy.*
- A. Original work refers to work that the student created without the help of others. System coordinators are asked to verify that each system winner has the proper heading. This information may be handwritten and must be on each page of the entry.
- Q. *Do we submit all drafts or just the final copy?*
- A. Final copy
- Q. *My students collaborated on a writing project. May I submit multiple names for system consideration?*
- A. YGA is a writing contest for individuals. While we support collaboration in the classroom, only one student per grade level in each school system may advance to the RESA level.

## GENERAL RULES

Entries must meet the following guidelines:

1. The entry must include a completed **entry form, including signatures of the student, the parent/guardian, and the designated system level administrator**. Incomplete entry forms will be eliminated from the competition.
2. The submitted entry, in part or entirety, must not be published online or in print prior to or during the current academic year.
3. The original **student work** must be submitted.
  - a. Each entry must be the student's original work (this includes all edits, revisions, and publication) and must be typed or handwritten on 8.5x11 inch paper. Print on one side of the paper only.
  - b. The maximum length of the original student work is 1900 words. If your submission nears the 1900 word maximum, please include a word count. Dictated stories must follow the approved state testing accommodation guidelines for dictation. Do not bind, make a cover for, decorate, laminate, or otherwise alter the original paper on which the entry is written.
  - c. The submitted entry must have the name of the student and student's school removed.
  - d. Record the student's initials, grade, and RESA district number at top and center of **each page** of the original and copy in the following manner:

SAMPLE OF TOP OF EACH PAGE OF THE ORIGINAL AND COPY SUBMITTED		
ABC	3 <sup>rd</sup>	RESA 8
(Student Initials)	(Grade)	(RESA District)

### FOR SYSTEM COORDINATORS

1. Ensure each system-level winning entry meets the entry guidelines and the entry form is complete.
2. Submit system-level winning entries to your RESA YGA Coordinator. *RESA Coordinators have the flexibility to set an earlier submission deadline, so please pay careful attention to communication about this competition from your RESA.* Electronic versus paper submission is the decision of your RESA.
  - a. If submitting PAPER copies:
    - i. Paperclip together the completed and signed entry form, the original work, and a copy for each grade-level winning entry.
    - ii. Use the cover page template provided to list your system-level winning entries.
    - iii. Submit your system-level winning entries to your RESA YGA Coordinator. Entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, February 22, 2024**.
  - b. If submitting ELECTRONICALLY, your RESA YGA Coordinator will share the submission guidelines.
3. *If you have questions about school-level or system-level competitions, please contact your RESA Coordinator for guidance.*

## FOR RESA ELA SPECIALISTS/COORDINATORS

1. Ensure each RESA-level winning entry meets the entry guidelines and the entry form is complete.
2. Entries must be received **electronically** no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, March 21, 2024.**

### Submission Formatting:

- i. Scan entries as separate PDF files. Use the following file naming convention: **RESA NUMBER.Grade Level.ENTRY.pdf** (Example - 11.6.ENTRY.pdf). Ensure that the entry is legible after scanning.
- ii. Scan the completed RESA-Winner cover page and entry forms in K-12 order as a PDF file. Use the following naming convention: **RESA NUMBER.ENTRY FORMS.PDF** (Example - 11.ENTRY FORMS.pdf).
- iii. Upload cover page and entry files (a total of 14 separate files) to the shared Google Drive folder. Email GLAS (galangartssupervisors@gmail.com) once your RESA-Level entries are uploaded or if you need the link to your RESA's shared folder.

